

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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R 160923Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7581

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, RP, IN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOP PARTICIPATION IN COLOMBO NAC

1. ON JULY 16, DFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UN AFFAIRS VERCELES TOLD EMBOFFS THAT GOP WOULD BE SENDING FIVE-MAN DELEGATION TO COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AS "GUESTS." DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INGLES WHO LED GOP GUEST DELEGATION TO NAC MEETING IN LIMA IN 1975. OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION INCLUDE AMBASSADOR BRILLANTES, WHO WAS ACTIVE AT GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN MANILA, PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO SRI LANKA AND TWO OTHERS. VERCELES HAD BEEN TAPPED TO GO BUT IN VIEW OF ATTENDANCE AT TWO RECENT CONFERENCES (VANCOUVER AND GENEVA) HAD OPTED OUT.

2. VERCELES STATED GOP'S ULTIMATE AIM IS TO BE ACCEPTED AS "OBSERVER" AT CONFERENCE. HE SAID THERE IS NO
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CHANCE FOR THIS NOW BECAUSE OF INDIAN OPPOSITION.

EMBOFF NOTED COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT OF PRESIDENT BONGO OF GABON (SEEN MANILA 10124 NOTAL) INDICATED GOP'S DESIRE FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS. VERCELES EXPLAINED (NOT VERY CONVINCINGLY) THAT THIS HAD BEEN GABON'S DESIRE AND GOP ACCEDED TO IT IN COMMUNIQUE. VERCELES STATED THAT INDIA OPPOSES GOP OBSERVER STATUS AT NAC BECAUSE IT WISHES FORESTALL SIMILAR STATUS FOR PAKISTAN. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER QUESTION OF GOP PARTICIPATION HAD ARISEN DURING PRESIDENT MARCOS TALKS WITH MRS. GANDHI DURING MARCOS TRIP ENROUTE HOME FROM UNCTAD IN NAIROBI. VERCELES SAID FORSEC ROMULO TOLD HIM MATTER HAD NOT COME UP. VERCELES BEWAILED FACT THAT "NO ONE HAD PRESENCE OF MIND" TO REMIND MARCOS.

3. COMMENT: RECENTLY ARRIVED INDIAN FIRST SECRETARY TOLD EMBOFFS JULY 13 THERE NO WAY GOP WOULD GET OBSERVER STATUS AT COLOMBO MEETING. HE SAID THAT EFFORT TO ENLIST ASSISTANCE OF PRESIDENT BONGO, SPEEDY RECOGNITION OF SRV (MADAME BINH MADE MAJOR SPEECH AGAINST GOP AT LIMA LAST YEAR), ETC., WOULD NOT HELP GOP CAUSE. VERCELES COMMENTS SUGGEST WORKING LEVEL AT DFA ACCEPTS THIS ALTHOUGH MARCOS HIMSELF MAY STILL HARBOR HOPE THERE IS SOME WAY HE CAN SWING OBSERVER STATUS.

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